

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10
NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01
PA-01 /092 W

-----008310 060418Z /20

R 051650Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9641
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11266

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR, GE, EEWT, ETRD
SUBJECT: FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS: MITTAG/BEIL VISIT TO
FRANCE

REF: BERLIN 2153

1. MADAME TIMSIT, THE NEW QUAI SOU-DIRECTEUR REPLACING
PLAISANT (WHO HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO BE ANDREANI'S
DEPUTY) OFFERED US FOLLOWING TOUR-D'HORIZON OF CURRENT
FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS.

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2. GOF HAD BEEN "VERY DISTRESSED" BY UNEXPECTED AND
"ABRASIVE" MANNER IN WHICH GDR, IN THE PERSON OF POLIT-
BUREAU MEMBER GUENTHER MITTAG, LAST FALL GAVE MAJOR GDR
CONTRACT FOR AN AROMATICS PLANT (BERLIN 8639 AND PRE-
VIOUS) TO THE JAPANESE RATHER THAN TO THE FRENCH.
TIMSIT SAID THAT CREUSE ET LOIRE HAD MADE "HUGE"

EXPENDITURES ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND RELATED RE-
SEARCH, BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY GDR EMBASSY
HERE AT EVERY STEP. THE BLOW WAS THEREFORE ALL THE
MORE PAINFUL BECAUSE IT WAS UNEXPECTED.

3. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER GDR BEGAN FISHING FOR
A MITTAG/BEIL VISIT TO FRANCE -- A REQUEST REITERATED
MOST RECENTLY THROUGH A BEIL INTERMEDIARY AT THE
LEIPZIG FAIR -- TO THE EFFECT THAT BEIL AND MITTAG
WOULD LIKE TO COME TO FRANCE FROM APRIL 17-20. SINCE
GOF STILL DOES NOT HAVE A NEW GOVERNMENT, NO COMMITMENT
HAS OR COULD BE MADE SO FAR TO INVITE THE EAST GERMANS.
HOWEVER, QUAI PROBABLY WILL OFFER INVITATION IF THE
NEW GOF AGREES.

4. FOR SAME REASONS, NO PRECISE UNDERSTANDING EXISTS
AS TO AGENDA OF POSSIBLE MITTAG VISIT. BEIL HAD
HINTED "IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS COULD BE SIGNED." QUAI
ASSUMES AGREEMENTS WOULD BE SIGNED FOR THE CITROEN
PLANT REFERRED TO BERLIN'S REFTEL, AS WELL AS FOR A
ROLLING MILL, BUT ASKED THAT INFO ON BOTH SCORES BE
PROTECTED. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, GDR WANTS FRENCH
CREDITS TO FINANCE IMPORTS FROM FRANCE AT CERTAIN
TO BE AGREED TO LEVELS. TMSIT WAS NOT SURE HOW THE
NEW GOF WOULD RESPOND, BUT DID ALLOW THAT QUAI HAD
RECENTLY "COMPLAINED" TO THE GDR OVER INCREASING UN-
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FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCES. FINALLY, TMSIT SAID, MITTAG
AND BEIL WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO WANT TO MAKE A HIGH-
VISIBILITY TOUR OF THE NEW FRENCH POLITICAL HORIZON

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-----008330 060420Z /20

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 11266

ALONG LINES OF LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE HERE BY
HERMANN AXEN, WHICH INCLUDED A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED VISIT
TO THE ASSEMBLY, A RECEPTION BY BARRE, ETC., ETC.

5. OBVIOUSLY, TIMSIT CONTINUED, SHOULD VISIT TAKE
PLACE IN TWO WEEKS OR SO, MITTAG AND BEIL WILL PRESS
FRENCH HARD ON NATIONALITY QUESTION, PARTICULARLY
SINCE GDR HOPES OF GETTING FRENCH CONCESSIONS ON THE
POINT EASILY BY A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT HAVE BEEN
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DASHED BY THE RECENT FRENCH ELECTIONS.
SIGNIFICANTLY, THE FRENCH-GDR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
HAS JUST RECENTLY LAUNCHED A POLITICAL PRESSURE CAM-
PAIGN TO URGE FRENCH ACCEPTANCE OF CONSULAR AGREEMENT.
TIMSIT SAID THAT IT WILL THEREFORE BE IMPORTANT FOR
QUAI IN BRIEFING GUIRINGAUD AND BARRE BEFORE VISIT TO
HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE THE US NOW
STANDS, SINCE SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE
MOST RECENT BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF US-GDR CONSULAR
NEGOTIATIONS. UNLESS FRENCH POSITION IS TO BE REDE-
FINED BY NEW GOF, WHICH TIMSIT DOUBTED, FRENCH WILL
REMAIN STEADFAST ON NATIONALITY QUESTION, ALTHOUGH
ISSUE HAS NEVER BEEN LINKED TO IMPROVING RELATIONS IN
OTHER DOMAINS. INDEED, FRENCH MAY SIDESTEP PROBLEM
ENTIRELY BY DECLARING THAT THEY REALLY DO NOT NEED A
CONSULAR AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR, AND SO LET MATTER DROP.

AS OF NOW, GDR HAS REQUESTED NO NEW FRENCH-GDR ROUND
OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS.

6. COMMENT AND REQUESTED ACTION:

SINCE THE FORMATION OF A NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT
ALWAYS BRINGS WITH IT SOME POLICY REVIEWS, IT MAY WELL
BE IN OUR INTEREST TO GIVE TMSIT THE UP-DATE BRIEFING
SNE REQUESTS. THIS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A TIMELY MEANS
OF REITERATING OUR OWN POSITIONS HERE SO AS TO ASSURE
THAT THEY REMAIN IN FRENCH MINDS DURING MITTAG VISIT.
DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IS THEREFORE REQUESTED.

HARTMAN

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